

BIOGRAPHY

Panellists:

Zuraida binti Kamaruddin

Minister of Housing and Local Government, WPL Country Ambassador for Malaysia



Zuraida binti Kamaruddin is the current [Member of Parliament](#) for [Ampang](#), Selangor and serves in the Cabinet of Malaysia as the [Minister of Housing and Local Government](#) from 21 May 2018. She is the first woman to serve in that position. She is also a Central Committee Member of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Malaysian United Indigenous Party), a component party of Perikatan Nasional, the ruling coalition in Malaysia. Zuraida was elected to Parliament in the [2008 election](#), winning the seat of Ampang from the then ruling [Barisan Nasional](#) coalition. She was re-elected in the [2013](#) and in the [2018](#) elections.

On International Women's Day this year, Zuraida launched the Council of Malaysian Women Political Leaders (COMWEL), comprising of women political leaders in the country. This initiative is meant to advance the socio-economic standing of women in the country by strengthening women's position through the parliament. Zuraida is also Women Political Leader's Country Ambassador for Malaysia, a position she has held since 2018.

Zuraida also advocates environmental issues pertaining to waste management which falls under the ambit of her Ministry. Under her leadership, the Housing and Local Government Ministry has in rapidly undergone positive changes with the implementation of people-centric policies.

Golriz Ghahraman

Member of Parliament, New Zealand



Golriz Ghahraman is an Iranian-Kiwi refugee and made history as the first ever refugee to be sworn in as an MP, having arrived in Aotearoa as a child asylum seeker with her family from Iran.

Her studies at Oxford, and her career as a lawyer in New Zealand and overseas, have focused on enforcing human rights and holding governments to account. Her work has included restoring communities after war and human rights atrocities, particularly empowering women engaged in peace and justice initiatives.

In New Zealand, she has successfully advocated on human rights issues before the Supreme Court. Before entering parliament as list MP for the Green Party, Golriz was active in the NGO community, volunteering her skills to advance justice reform, refugee and migrant rights, and for family carers of disabled persons.

Zeina Hilal

Gender Partnership Programme,
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)



Zeina Hilal works to advance gender equality and human rights in and through parliaments since 20 years. She joined the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2006 where she is now the Manager of two flagship programmes of the organization: Gender Partnership and Youth Participation. She works with parliaments from around the world to inform and support deliberations, legislation and policy-making for the elimination of gender-based discrimination and violence and for the empowerment of women and youth. Promoting and supporting the participation of women and youth in politics is a key area of her expertise and a key priority for the global organization of national parliaments that she serves.

Moderator:

MIURA Mari

Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Sophia University,
Co-founder of the Academy for Gender Parity



Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley. Author of *Welfare Through Work: Conservative Ideas, Partisan Dynamics, and Social Protection in Japan* (Cornell University Press, 2012), editor of *Japan's Women Representatives* (in Japanese, Asahi Shimbun Shuppansha, 2016), co-editor of *Gender Quotas in Comparative Perspectives: Understanding the Increase in Women Representatives* (in Japanese, Akashi Shoten, 2014). She received the Wilma Rule Award (IPSA Award for the Best Research on Gender and Politics) in 2018.

The Academy for Gender Parity

The Academy for Gender Parity trains young women to run for political office, with the aim of helping women and minorities to fully participate in decision-making processes and thus create a society that truly respects gender equality and diversity. In March 2018, Professors Mari Miura and Ki-young Shin established the Academy, and they have worked with other non-governmental organizations, community groups, and politicians to carry out the Academy's mission of achieving gender parity. The Academy offers a leadership course that teaches the skills and strategies needed to launch successful political campaigns, provides a training program for instructors, organizes public talk events, and conducts research.